

Comments from the California Telephone Association

October 9, 2002

Re: SBC 271 Application, Proceeding 02-306

The California Telephone Association (CTA) is a statewide association comprised of the 16 incumbent local exchange carriers providing telecommunications services within California. In addition to these local exchange carrier members, approximately 200 providers of products and services to the industry are CTA associates.

SBC's entry into the long distance market increases the choices local exchange companies can offer to consumers, creating significant pressure on existing long distance companies to be competitive. To the extent that approval of SBC's 271 application moves the telecommunications industry closer to fair and open competition, which should provide significant competition and, ultimately, create new efficiencies in a less regulated long distance market, CTA supports SBC's FCC approval of SBC's 271 application.